

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2297

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6178

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DELIVER AT 0800 JULY 17

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV KS US

SUBJ: EXPECTED ROKG REACTION TO O'NEILL PROPOSAL RE KIM DONG JO

REF: STATE 179539

1. SINCE REFTEL GREETED ME ON ARRIVAL IN SEOUL LAST NIGHT, MY COMMENTS ARE NECESSARILY THOSE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM FROM WASHINGTON BUT I HAVE SHOWN THIS MESSAGE TO THE DCM AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR WHO CONCUR.

2. IF THE KOREANS WERE TO ACCEPT IT, I AGREE THAT SPEAKER O'NEILL'S NEW PROPOSAL COULD BE A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION FOR BOTH THE KOREANS AND OURSELVES. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS ALMOST SURE TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT CLEARLY FALLS OUTSIDE THE PAREMETERS OF WHAT THEY HAVE SAID WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM; I.E., AN INFORMAL AND INDIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND KIM DONG JO. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE NEW PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE KIM DONG JO COME FORWARD VOLUNTARILY TO PROVIDE CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE WITH RESPONSES TO CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY DRAWN QUESTIONS. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
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THE NEW AND PREVIOUS PROPOSALS WOULD APPEAR TO BE THAT THE AGENT WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE RATHER THAN MR. JAWORSKI. THE PROSPECT OF THE ROKG'S AGREEING TO THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE SLIGHTLY BETTER IF THE CONGRESSMEN WERE TO COME TO KOREA UNDER SOME OTHER PRETEXT AND MEET KIM DONG JO INFORMALLY, BUT EVEN SO I THINK THAT THE CHANCE FOR AGREEMENT WOULD BE SLIM.

3. I CANNOT ENVISAGE ANY ACCEPTABLE WAY OF FORCING THE ROKG TO ACCEPT THIS LATEST PROPOSAL. THE MOST OBVIOUS (AND RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE) SANCTION WOULD BE TO GO ALONG WITH THOSE WHO ADVOCATE ELIMINATION OF FMS CREDITS AND THE TRANSFER AUTHORITY FROM THIS YEAR'S SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL. I DO NOT THINK SUCH A SEVERE SANCTION WOULD BRING THE ROKG AROUND, AND I FEAR THAT OUR RESORT TO SUCH PUNISHING TACTICS WOULD HAVE A DEEPLY UNSETTLING EFFECT IN MUCH OF EAST ASIA TO SAY NOTHING OF THE IMPACT IN KOREA. THE EFFECT WOULD REVERSE THE HARD WON IMPROVEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S SECURITY POSTURE TOWARD EAST ASIA.

4. DESPITE THIS PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF KOREAN RECEPTIVITY TO THE SPEAKER'S PROPOSAL, I AM OBVIOUSLY PREPARED TO PUT IT FORWARD TO THE KOREANS AND THINK I CAN DO SO WITHOUT MUCH DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS. IF THE KOREANS SURPRISE US BY ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL, SO MUCH THE BETTER. IF THEY DON'T, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THEM TO COME FORWARD WITH AN AMENDMENT TO THEIR PRESENT OFFER, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THEY WILL CONFIRM TO DEPARTMENT IN WRITING IN NEAR FUTURE. THE MOST OBVIOUS WOULD BE FOR THEM TO ADAPT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR AN INDIRECT, INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH KIM DONG JO BY LETTER OR PHONE TO THE FRAMEWORK OF A VISIT BY CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE. PERHAPS THEY COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO STATE THAT IF HYE CONGRESSMEN WERE TO COME TO SEOUL

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ON OTHER BUSINESS KIM DONG JO WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THEM INDIRECTLY AND WOULD DO SO IN GOOD FAITH.

5. WE WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY MENTION OF THIS TO THE KOREANS UNTIL SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

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## Message Attributes

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